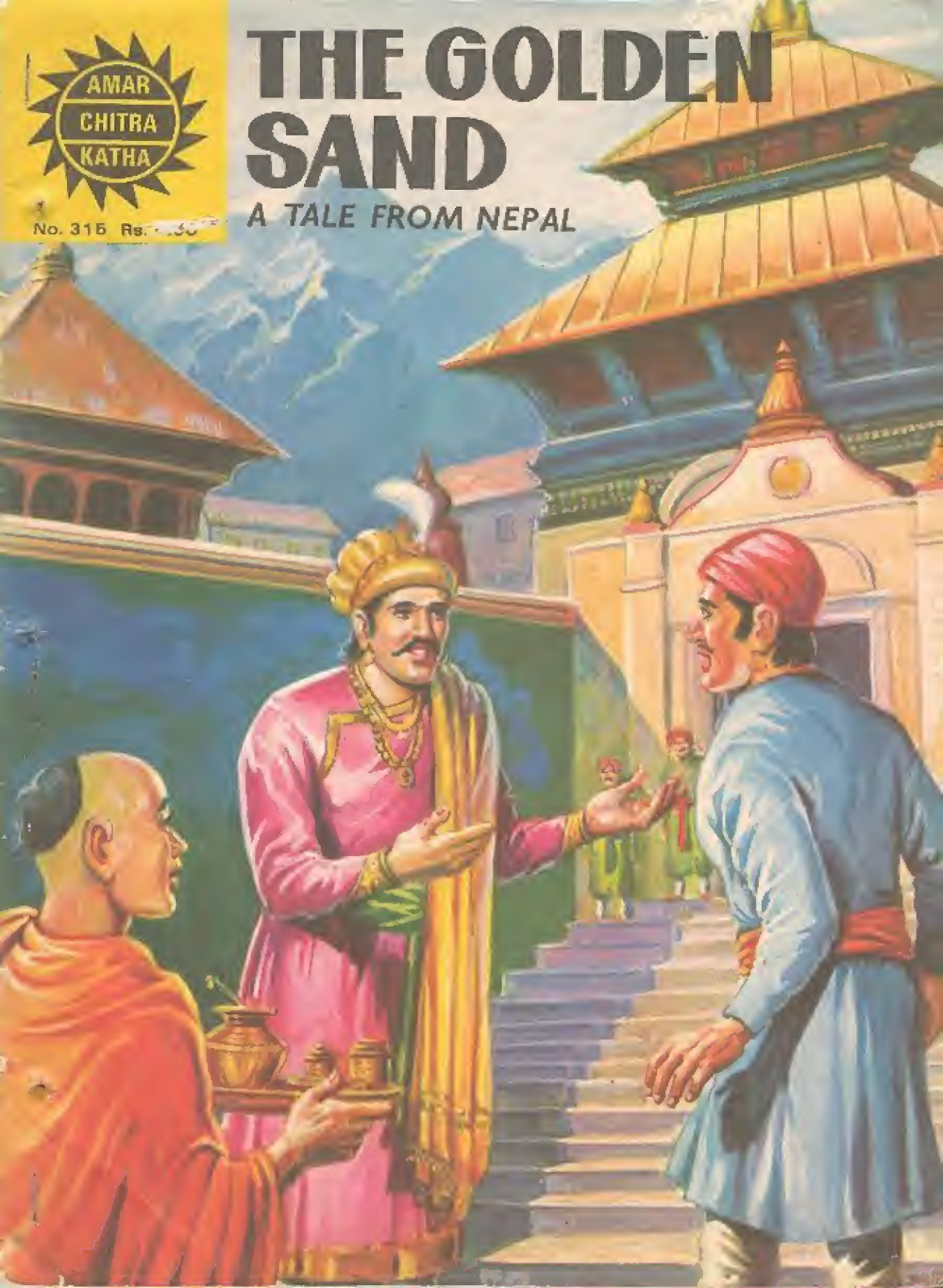




THE GOLDEN SAND

A TALE FROM NEPAL

No. 315 Rs. 30



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No. 315, August 1, 1984

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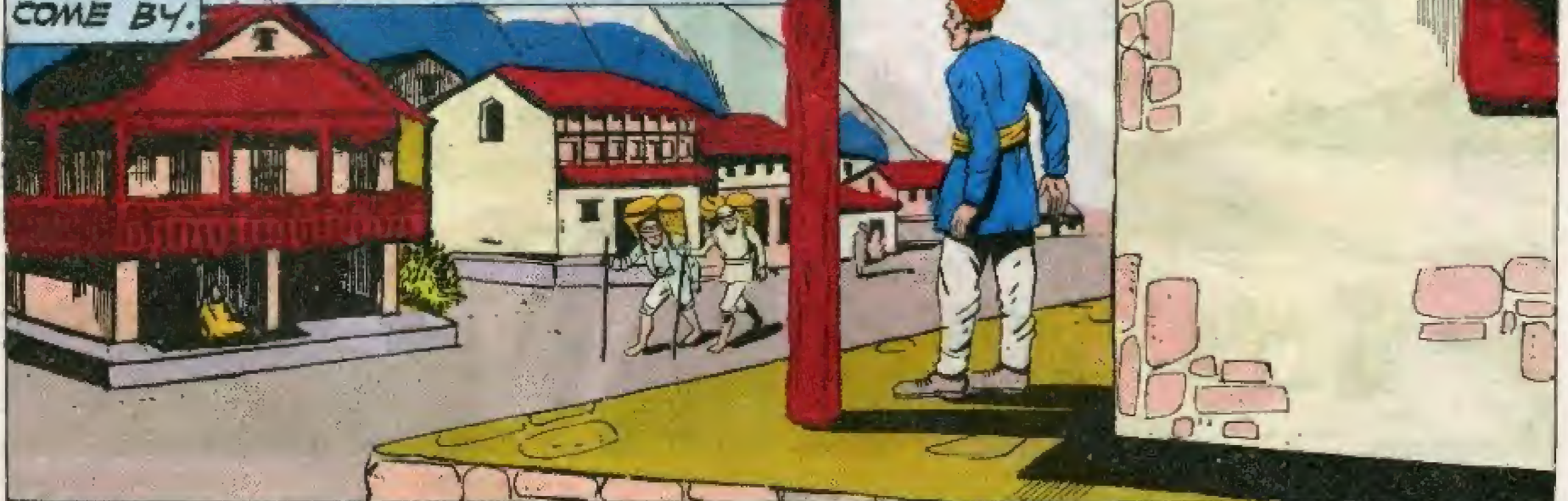
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THE GOLDEN SAND

WHEN SAKHWAL, A SAND-MERCHANT OF KATHMANDU, STEPPED OUT OF HIS HOUSE ONE MORNING, HE SAW TWO LABOURERS COME BY.



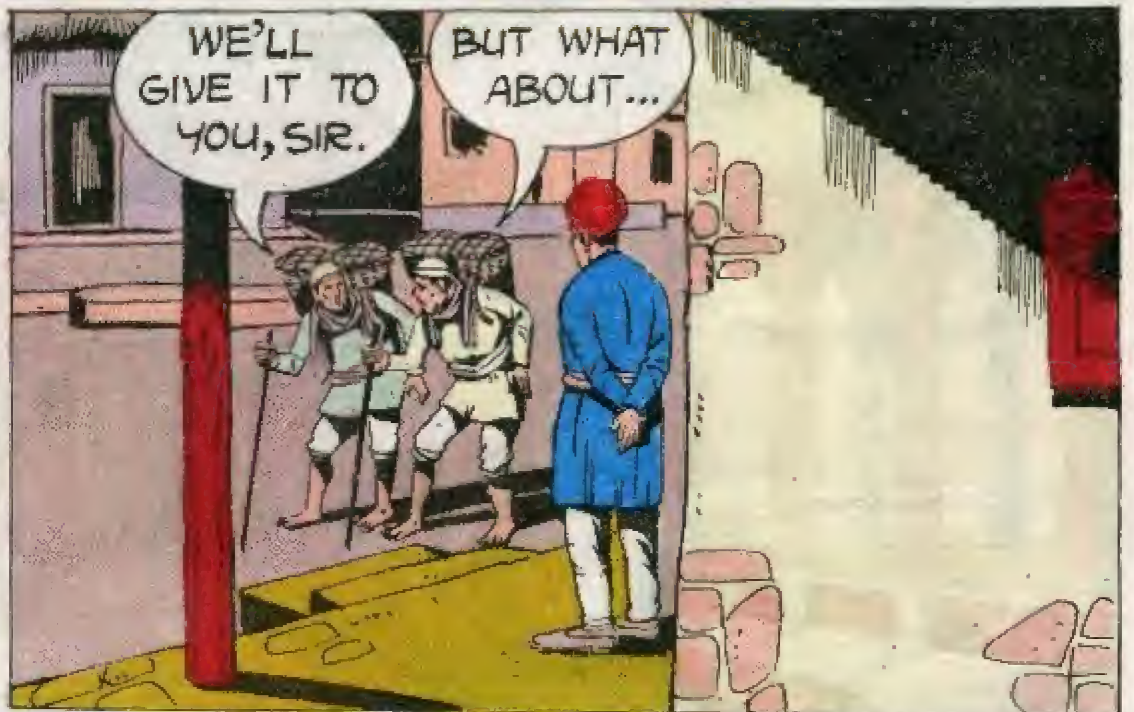
I'LL TAKE THAT SAND. I'LL PAY YOU WELL FOR IT.

IT'S FOR... FOR...



WE'LL GIVE IT TO YOU, SIR.

BUT WHAT ABOUT...

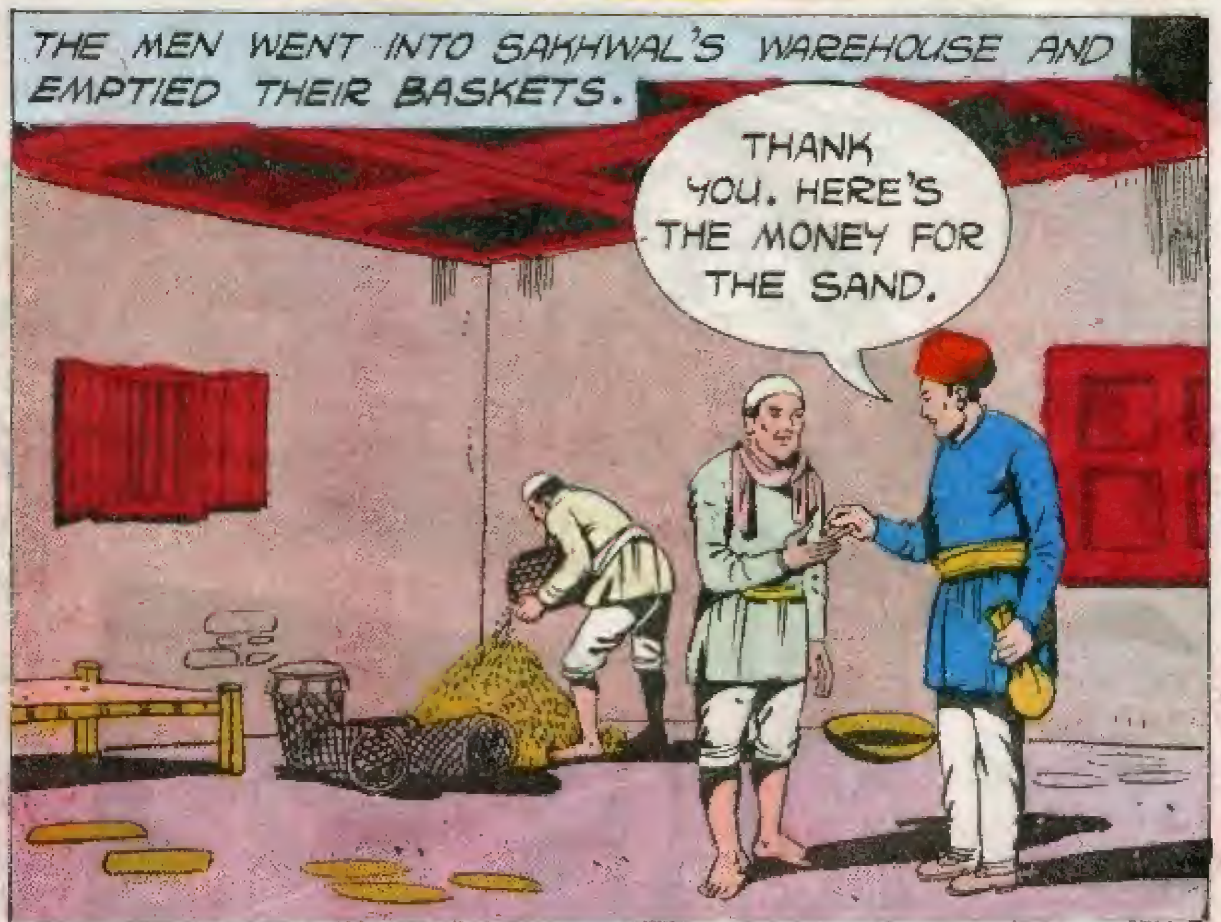


SSSH! WE CAN ALWAYS GO BACK AND GET SOME MORE FOR THE KING.

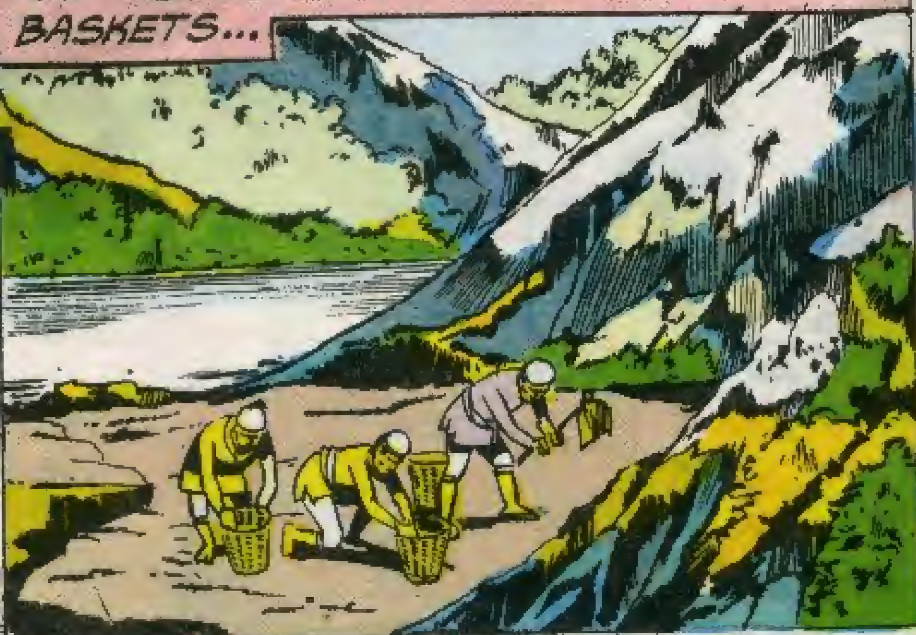


THE MEN WENT INTO SAKHWAL'S WAREHOUSE AND EMPTIED THEIR BASKETS.

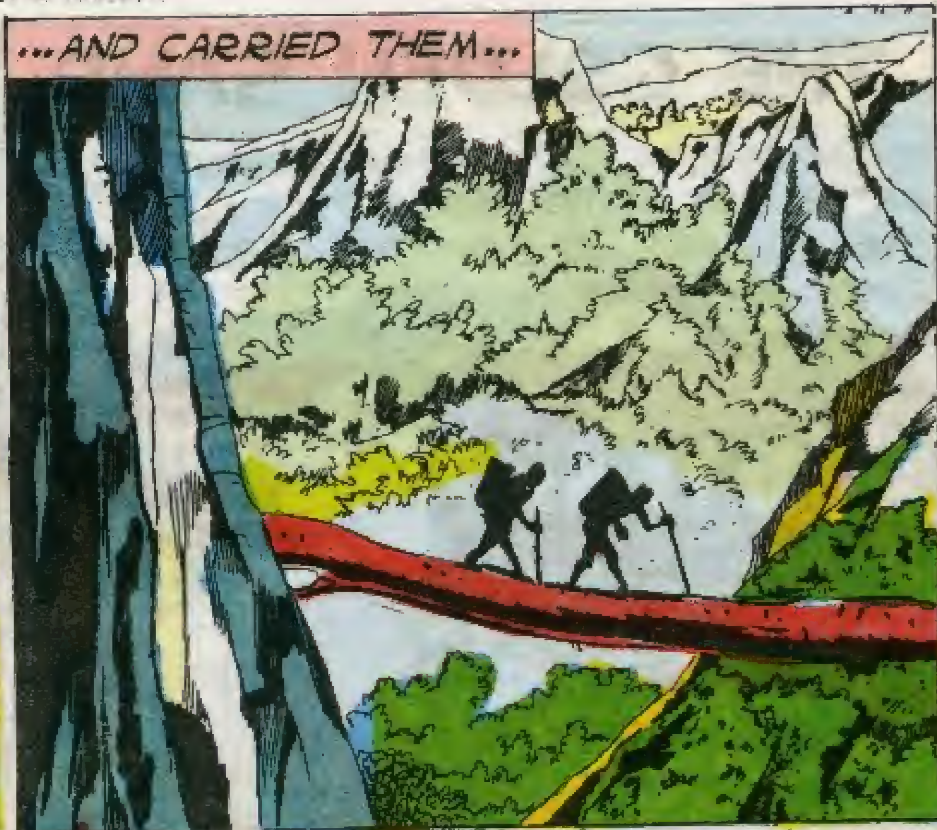
THANK YOU. HERE'S THE MONEY FOR THE SAND.



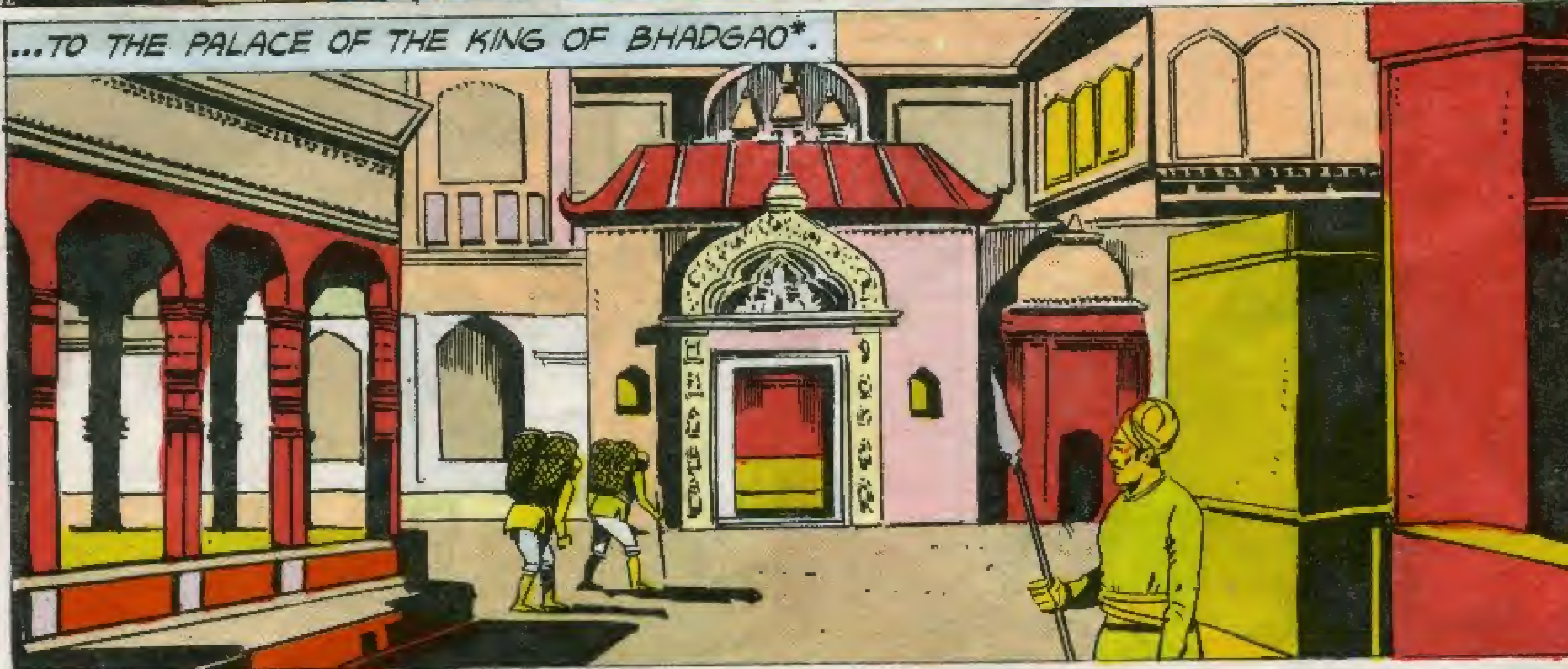
THEN THEY WENT BACK TO LAKHU, THE PILGRIM CENTRE SITUATED AT THE CONFLUENCE OF THE RIVERS BHATIKHU AND VISHNUMATI, REFILLED THEIR BASKETS...



...AND CARRIED THEM...



...TO THE PALACE OF THE KING OF BHADGAO*.



WE HAVE BROUGHT THE SAND, MAHARAJ.

GOOD! PUT IT DOWN IN THERE.

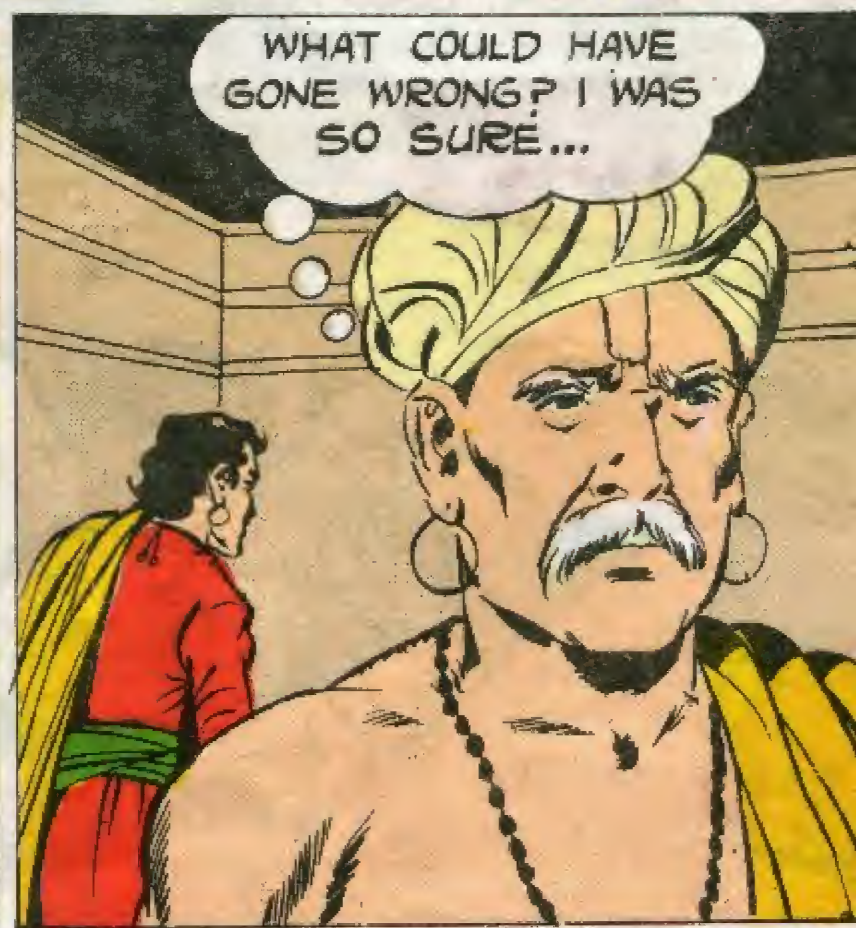
A FEW HOURS LATER...



THE KING EXAMINED THE CONTENTS OF ALL THE BASKETS.

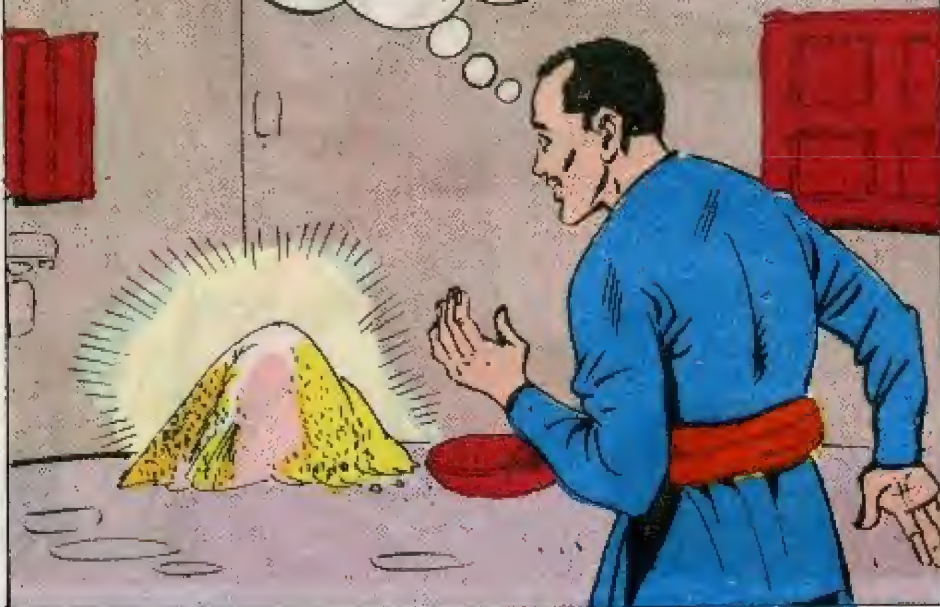


HE SENT FOR THE COURT ASTROLOGER.



MEANWHILE, AT SAKHWAL'S WAREHOUSE —

WHY IS THE
SAND SHINING
SO?



WH...
WHAT'S THIS?
OH! OH! WONDER
OF WONDERS!



IT'S GOLD
DUST!



I'D BETTER PUT
IT AWAY IN
A BIN.

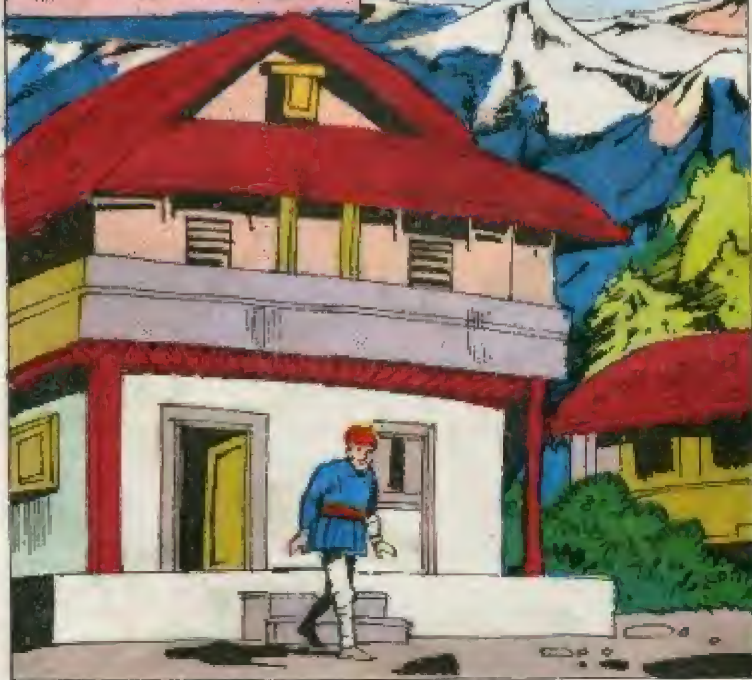


BUT THAT NIGHT SAKHWAL
WAS RACKED BY DOUBTS.

IT'S TRUE I FOUND IT IN MY
WAREHOUSE... BUT DOES THAT MAKE
IT MINE? SHOULD I KEEP IT OR
SHOULD I... OH, WELL, I'LL SLEEP
OVER IT AND THEN DECIDE.



THE NEXT MORNING HE SET OUT OF HIS HOUSE.



HE WAS WALKING THROUGH THE MARKET-PLACE, STILL STRUGGLING WITH HIS PROBLEM...



...WHEN A VOICE BEHIND HIM BROKE INTO HIS THOUGHTS.

MERCY! MERCY, SAHUJI.



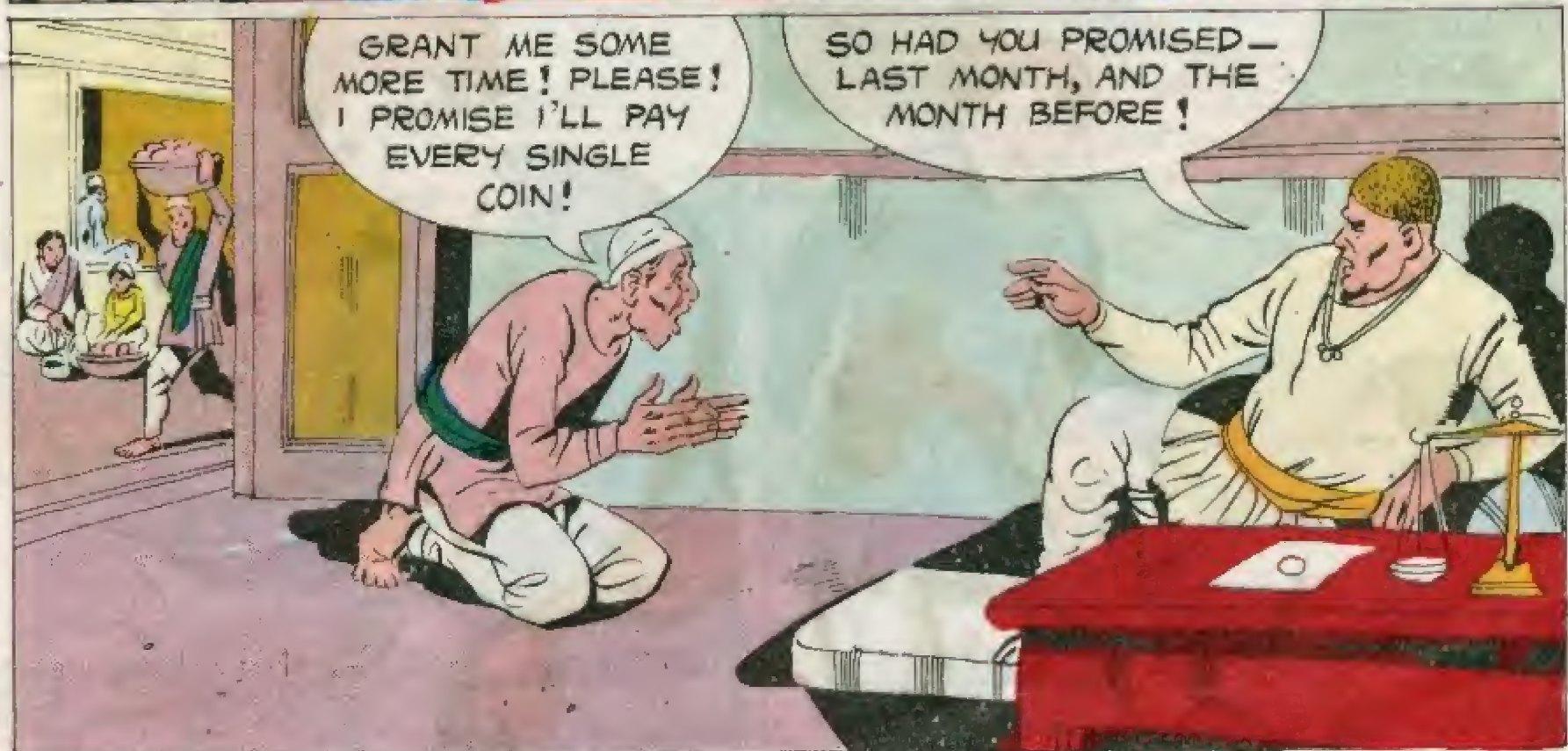
SAKHWAL SLOWLY TURNED ROUND.

PLEASE DON'T TAKE AWAY MY LAND AND MY CATTLE, SAHUJI. I'LL BE RUINED!



GRANT ME SOME MORE TIME! PLEASE! I PROMISE I'LL PAY EVERY SINGLE COIN!

SO HAD YOU PROMISED — LAST MONTH, AND THE MONTH BEFORE!





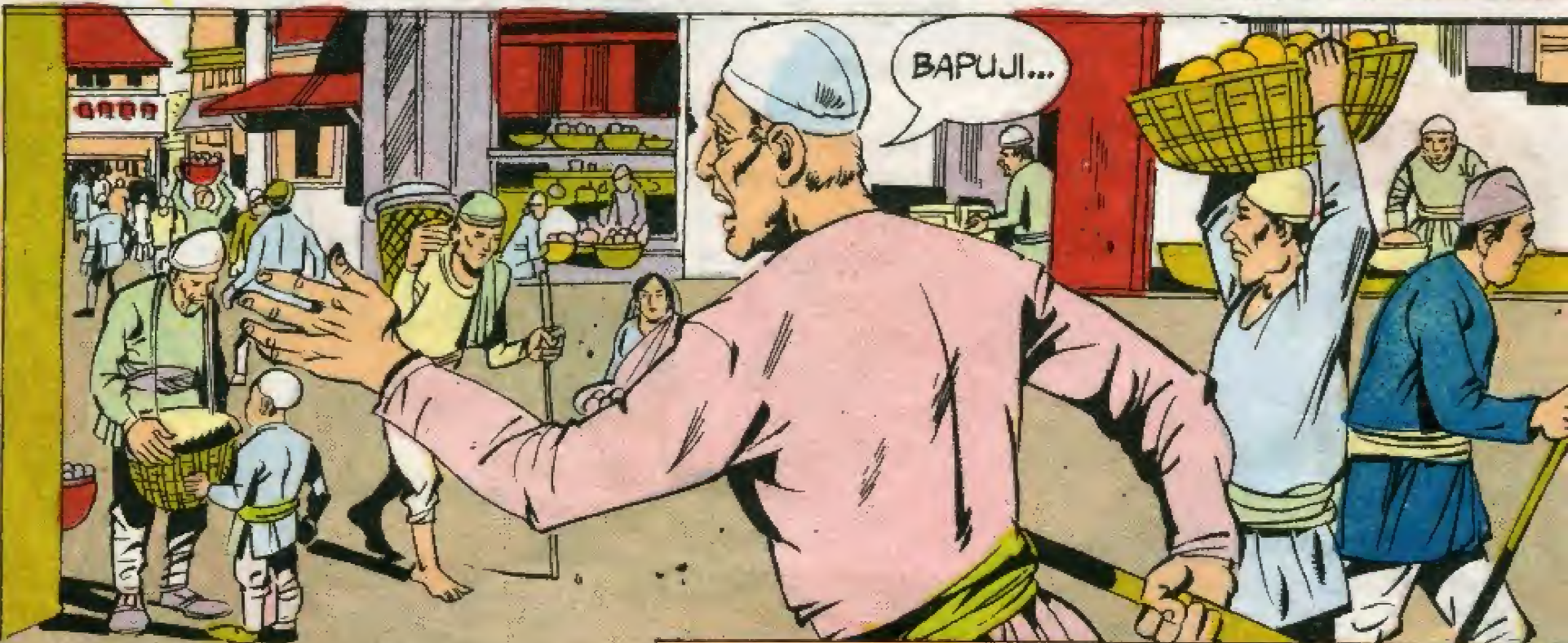
THE MONEY-LENDER ACCEPTED THE GOLD AND RETURNED THE BOND TO THE POOR CREDITOR.



MAY GOD BLESS... HE'S GONE!



BAPUJI...



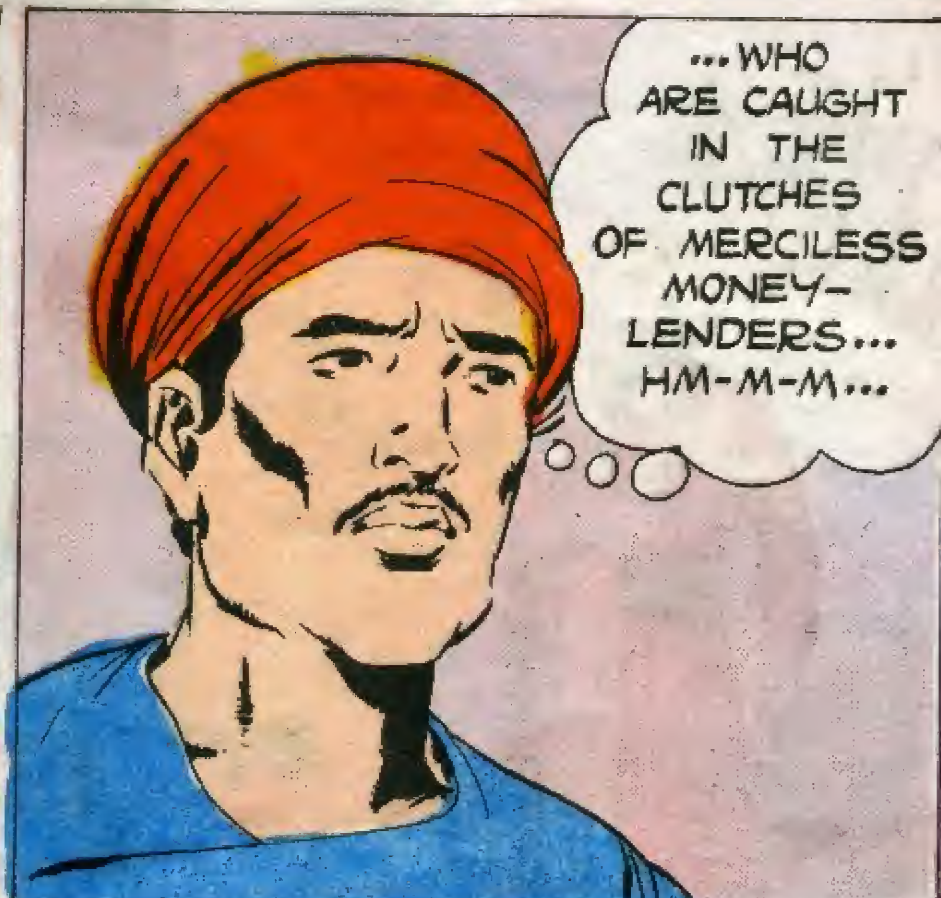
BUT SAKHWAL WAS ALREADY OUT OF EARSHOT.

THE SCENE HE HAD JUST WITNESSED SET HIM THINKING.

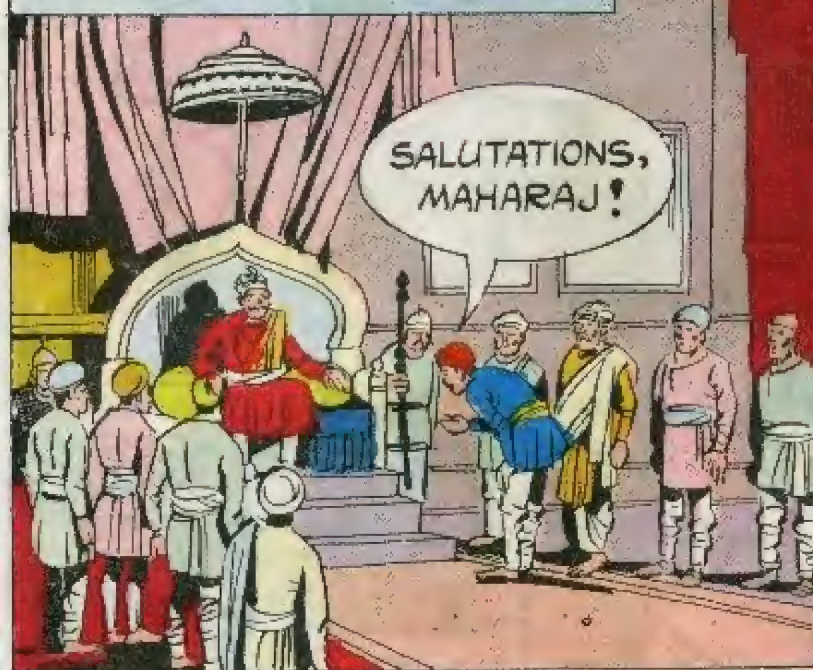
THERE MUST BE HUNDREDS LIKE HIM...



...WHO ARE CAUGHT IN THE CLUTCHES OF MERCILESS MONEY-LENDERS... HM-M-M...



HE WENT STRAIGHT TO THE COURT OF KING JAYADEVA MALLA.



SALUTATIONS, MAHARAJ!

I HAVE SOMETHING TO TELL YOU, MAHARAJ.

YES? GO AHEAD.

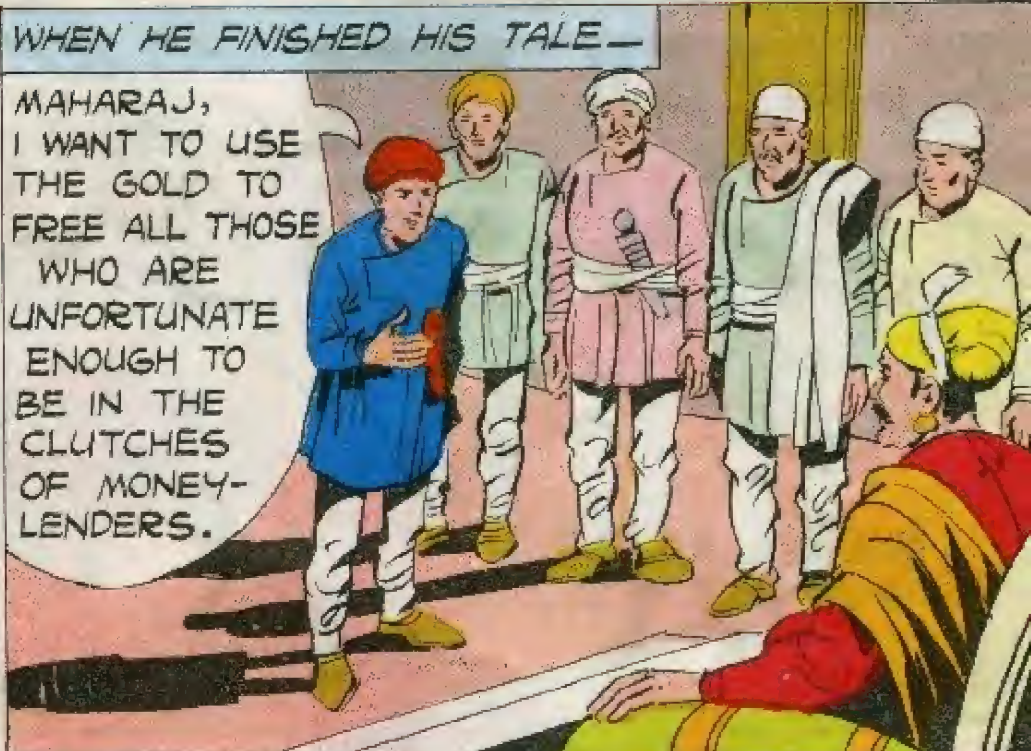


WELL... ER... I... I BOUGHT SOME SAND YESTERDAY. AND NEARLY TWELVE HOURS LATER...



WHEN HE FINISHED HIS TALE—

MAHARAJ, I WANT TO USE THE GOLD TO FREE ALL THOSE WHO ARE UNFORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE IN THE CLUTCHES OF MONEY-LENDERS.



DO I HAVE YOUR PERMISSION, MAHARAJ? AND YOUR BLESSINGS?



BLESSINGS? PERMISSION?







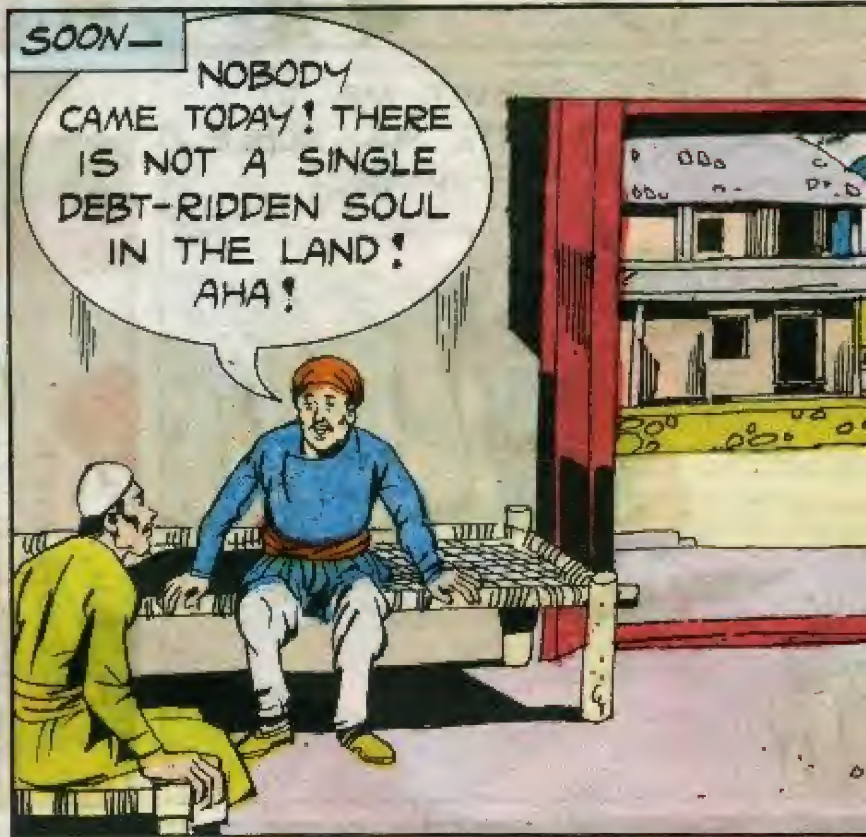
AND TO MARK THIS GREAT OCCASION, THE CALENDAR WE FOLLOW HENCEFORTH SHALL BE THE SHANKHDHAR SAMVAT, OF WHICH THIS GREAT DAY SHALL BE THE FIRST.

MAHARAJ JAYADEVA KO JAI!

LONG LIVE SHANKHDHAR!



WHEN SHANKHDHAR'S OFFER WAS PROCLAIMED, PEOPLE FROM FAR AND NEAR APPROACHED HIM. AND HE HELPED ONE AND ALL.



SOON—

NOBODY CAME TODAY! THERE IS NOT A SINGLE DEBT-RIDDEN SOUL IN THE LAND! AHA!



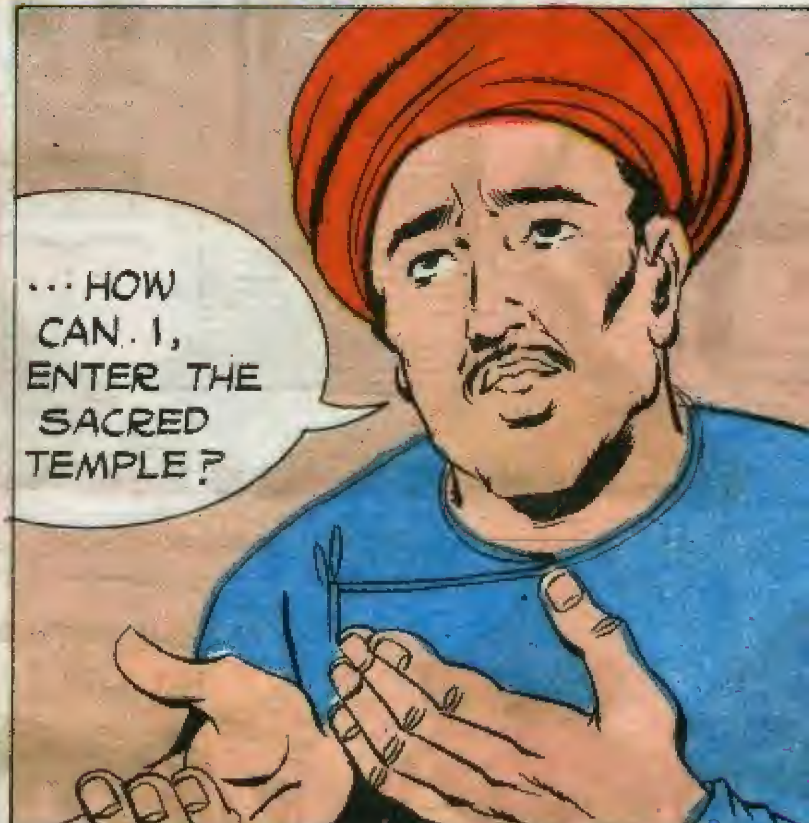
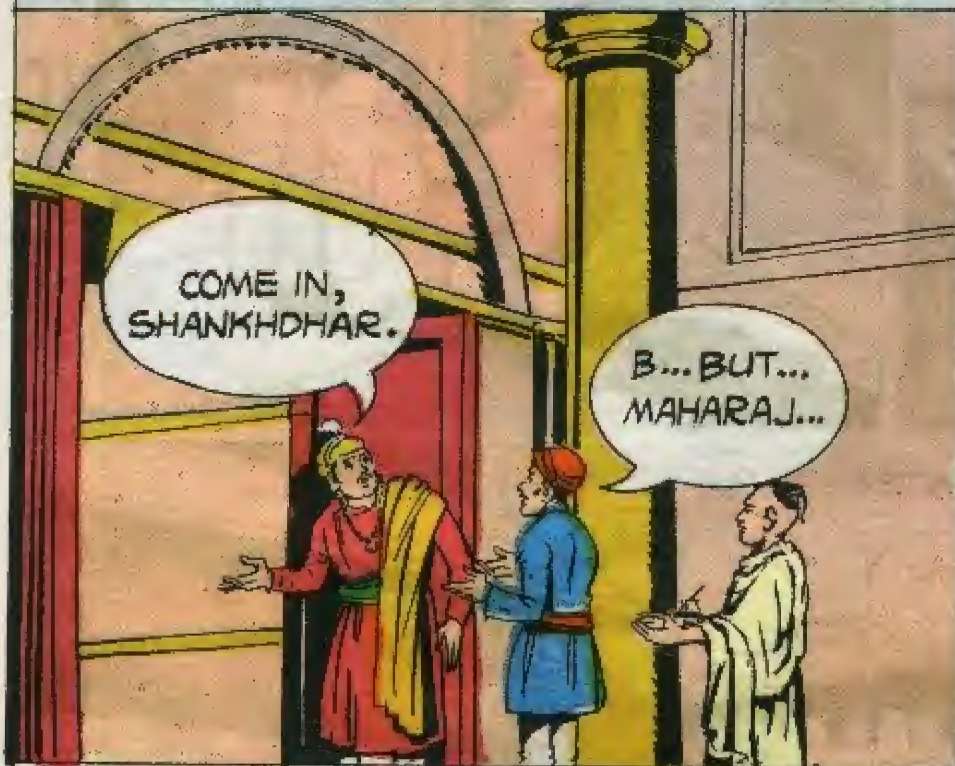
ONE DAY THE KING SENT FOR SAKHWAL.

WILL YOU COME WITH ME TO THE TEMPLE OF PASHUPATINATH*?

GLADLY, MAHARAJ.

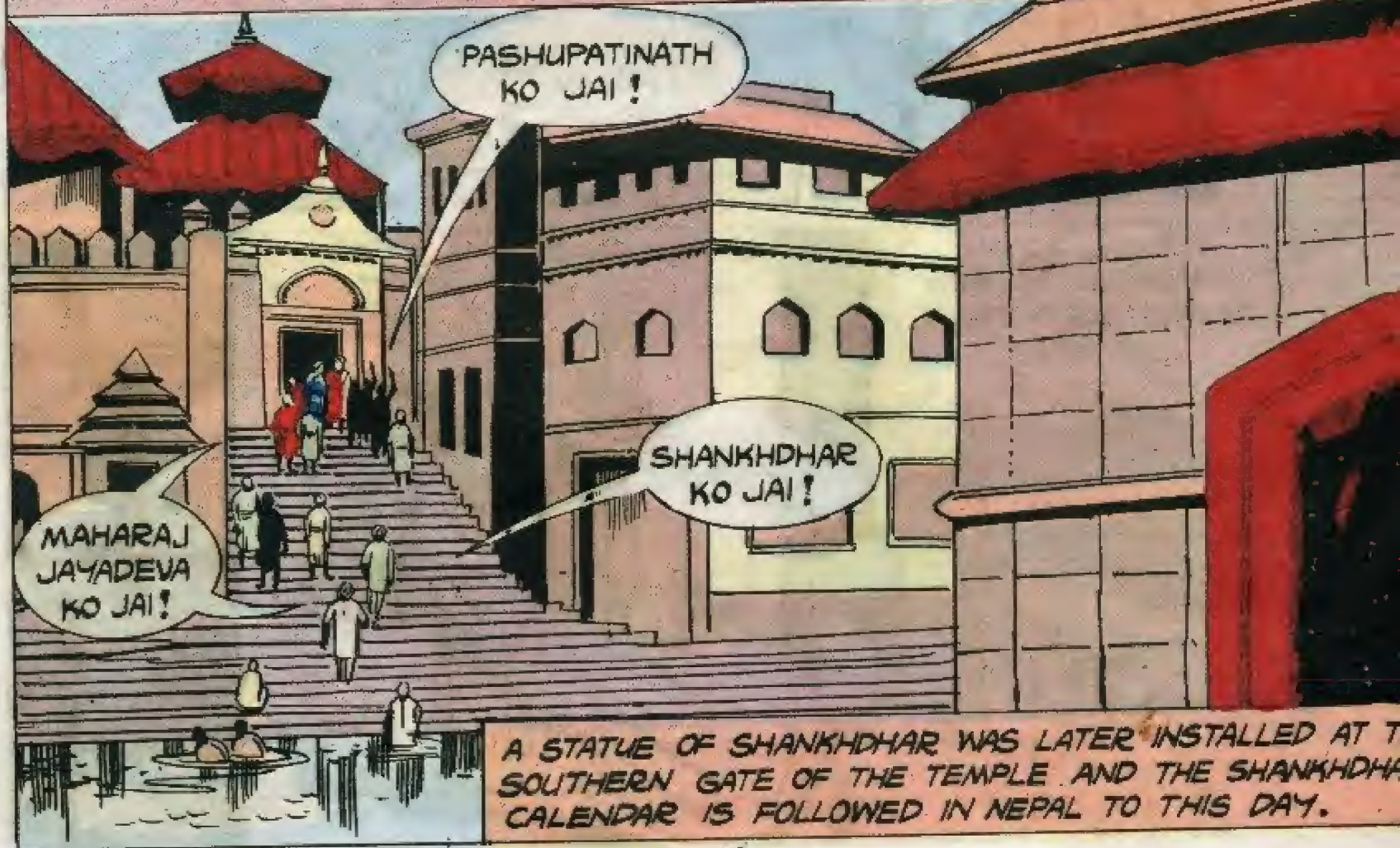


WHEN THEY ARRIVED AT THE ENTRANCE —

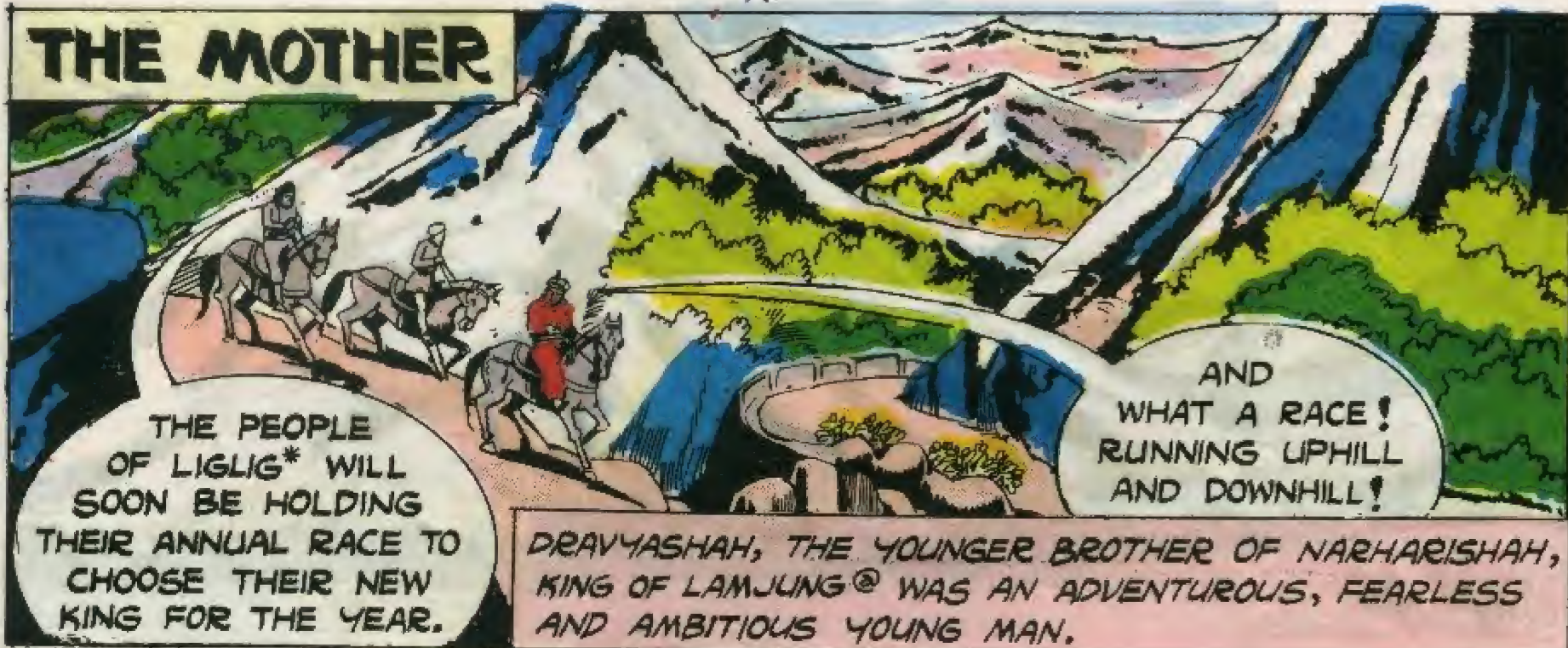




AMIDST GREAT CHEER, SHANKHDHAR ENTERED THE TEMPLE.



THE MOTHER

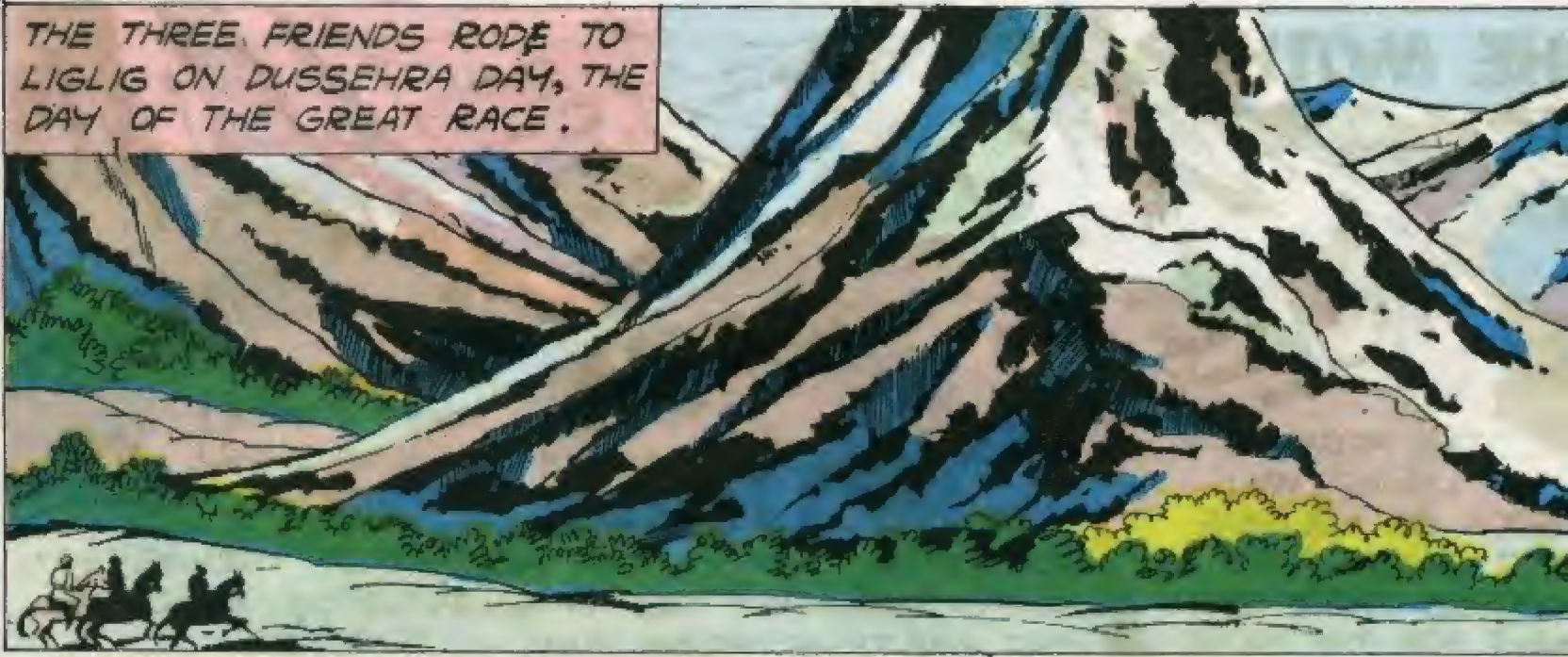


THE PEOPLE OF LIGLIG* WILL SOON BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL RACE TO CHOOSE THEIR NEW KING FOR THE YEAR.

DRAVYASHAH, THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF NARHARISHAH, KING OF LAMJUNG® WAS AN ADVENTUROUS, FEARLESS AND AMBITIOUS YOUNG MAN.



THE THREE FRIENDS RODE TO
LIGLIG ON DUSSEHRA DAY, THE
DAY OF THE GREAT RACE.



THE RACE BEGAN AT THE
FOOT OF THE HILL.



DRAVYASHAH, AS PREVIOUSLY
ARRANGED, HID HIMSELF
NEAR THE TOP OF THE HILL.
WHEN THE LEAD RUNNER
FLASHED PAST...



...HE JOINED IN...



...OVERTOOK THE
RUNNER...



...REACHED THE TEMPLE
ATOP THE HILL...



...RECEIVED THE GARLAND FROM
THE UNSUSPECTING PRIEST...



...AND RAN DOWNHILL...



...TO THE WAITING CROWD.



CONGRATULATIONS,
YOUNG MAN! WHAT'S
YOUR NAME?

DRAVYASHAH,
SIR.



YOU SHALL BE OUR
KING FOR THIS YEAR.
RAJA DRAVYASHAH
KO JAI!

RAJA
DRAVYASHAH
KO JAI!



DRAVYASHAH WAS TAKEN IN 'PROCESSION...



...TO THE PALACE...

...AND INSTALLED ON THE THRONE.



WHAT IS YOUR FIRST COMMAND, MAHARAJ?

WELL...

...FROM NOW ON, THE CUSTOM OF SELECTING A KING EVERY YEAR SHALL BE STOPPED FORTHWITH.



UNDER ONE PERMANENT KING, LIGLIG WILL PROSPER AND FLOURISH.



DRAVYASHAH THEN MADE A VISIT TO LAMJUNG TO MEET HIS MOTHER, BASANTVATI.

SALUTATIONS, MOTHER! WITH YOUR BLESSINGS YOUR YOUNGER SON TOO HAS BECOME A KING TODAY.



MAY GOD BLESS YOU, MY SON.



THEN HE WENT TO NARHARISHAH WHO HAD ALREADY HEARD THE NEWS.

WELL DONE, DRAVYA! YOU HAVE BROUGHT GLORY TO LAMJUNG— AND TO ME!



I, THE LORD OF LAMJUNG, WILL BE THE LORD OF LIGLIG TOO! MY TREASURY WILL NOW OVERFLOW, MY...



PARDON ME FOR INTERRUPTING YOU, BROTHER.



AS MY ELDER BROTHER, YOU ARE NO DOUBT THE MASTER OF THE KINGDOM WE INHERITED FROM OUR FATHER.





THEN ONE DAY HE RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM HIS ELDER BROTHER.

KING
NARHARISHAH SENDS
HIS CONGRATULATIONS
ON YOUR VICTORY,
SIR.

AND HE WANTS
TO REMIND YOU
ABOUT THE
TRIBUTE DUE
TO HIM.

WHAT
TRIBUTE?

PLEASE
TELL MY
BROTHER THAT
WHILE I THANK
HIM FOR HIS
CONGRATULATIONS...

...THERE IS NO
QUESTION OF MY
PAYING ANY
TRIBUTE.

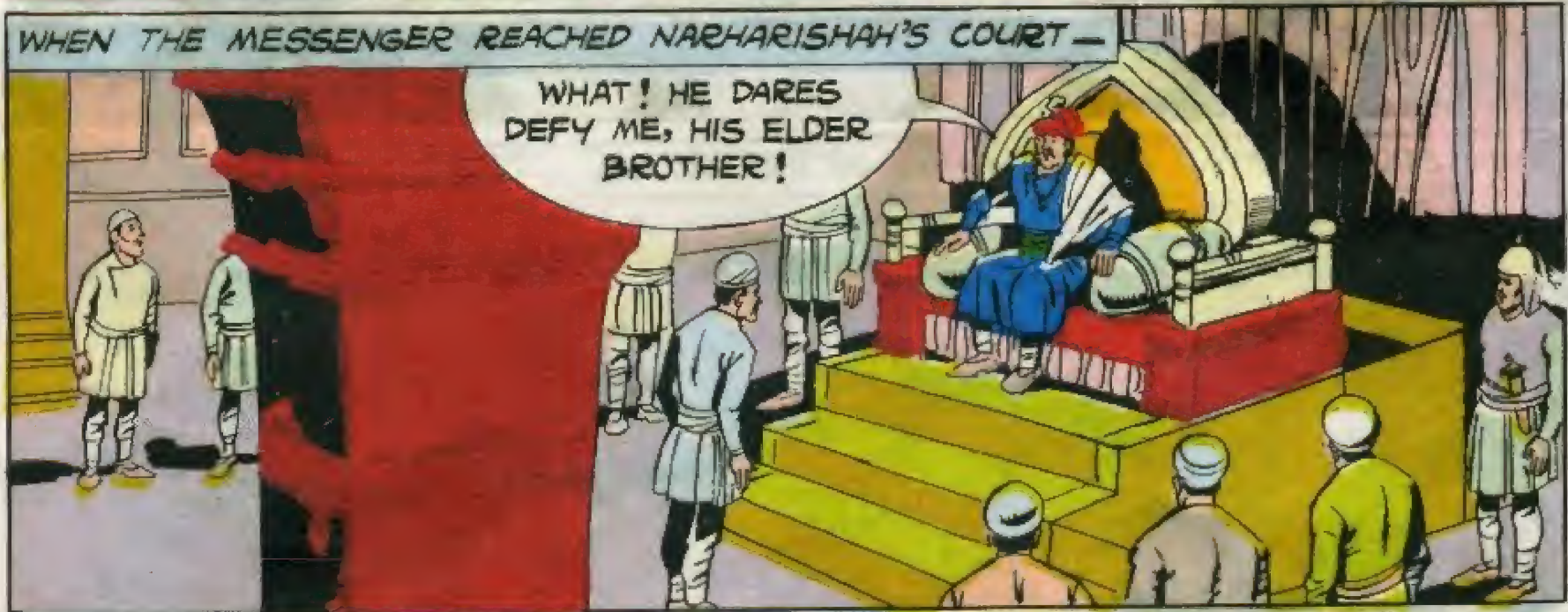
I HAD MADE IT
CLEAR TO HIM
LONG AGO.

AFTER THE MESSENGER LEFT —



IF HE THINKS HE CAN BULLY ME INTO SURRENDERING, HE'D BETTER THINK AFRESH.

WHEN THE MESSENGER REACHED NARHARISHAH'S COURT —



WHAT! HE DARES DEFY ME, HIS ELDER BROTHER!

WE'LL ATTACK HIM IN THE MONTH OF MAGHA* AFTER THE DIP IN THE HOLY CHEPE.



WHEN THE QUEEN MOTHER HEARD THIS —

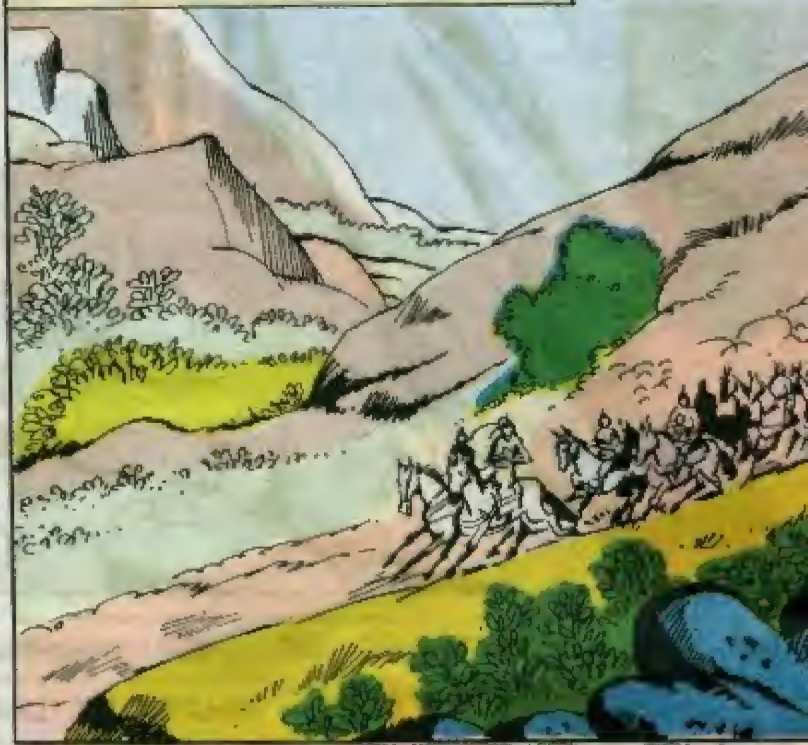


WAR BETWEEN SONS OF THE SAME MOTHER! NO! NEVER!

WHEN THE MONTH OF MAGHA CAME ROUND, KING NARHARISHAH SET OUT WITH THE QUEEN MOTHER AND HIS FAMILY FOR THE ANNUAL DIP IN THE RIVER CHEPE.



SO DID KING DRAVYASHAH.



THEY SOON ARRIVED AT THE BANKS OF THE RIVER.



DRAVYASHAH WAS ABOUT TO CROSS IT, WHEN—



MY LORD!
DON'T GO ALONE.
TAKE SOME
SOLDIERS WITH
YOU.

SOLDIERS?
WHY?



WELL...
ER... JUST IN
CASE...

DON'T BE
RIDICULOUS. I AM
GOING TO ASK THE
BLESSINGS.

DRAVYASHAH CROSSED THE RIVER...



... AND WALKED TOWARDS BASANTVATI.



MAY YOU LIVE LONG, SON. MAY YOU ACHIEVE GREATER GLORIES!

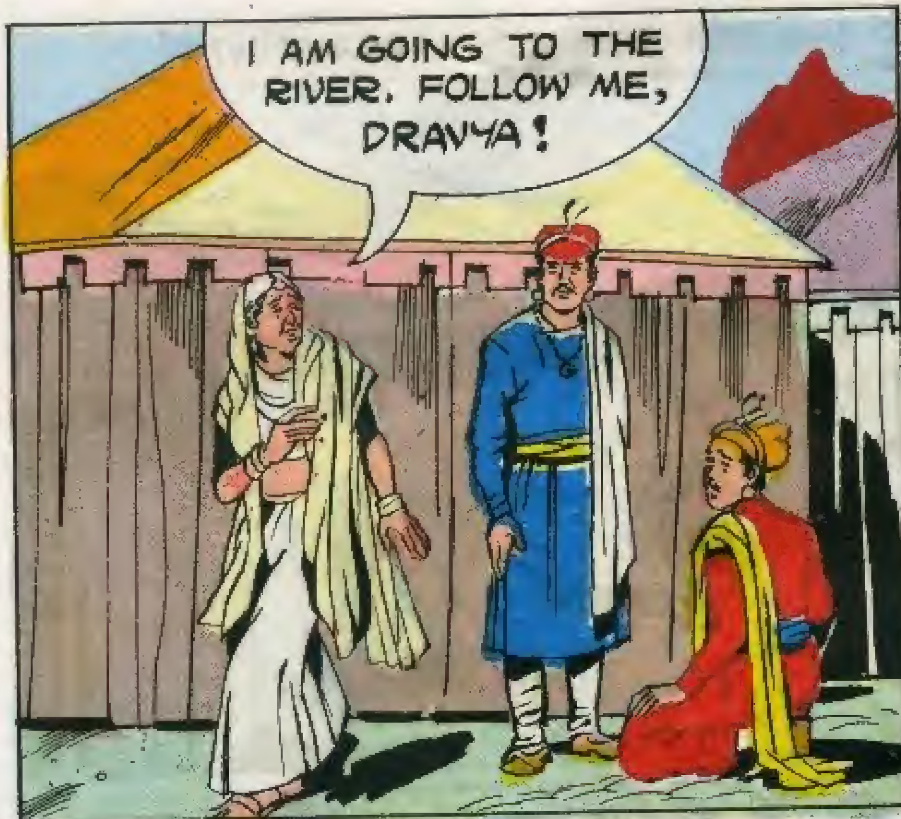


THEN AS HE TURNED TO NARHARISHAH, THE ELDER BROTHER BACKED AWAY.



NARHARISHAH ANSWERED HIM WITH A HOSTILE STARE.





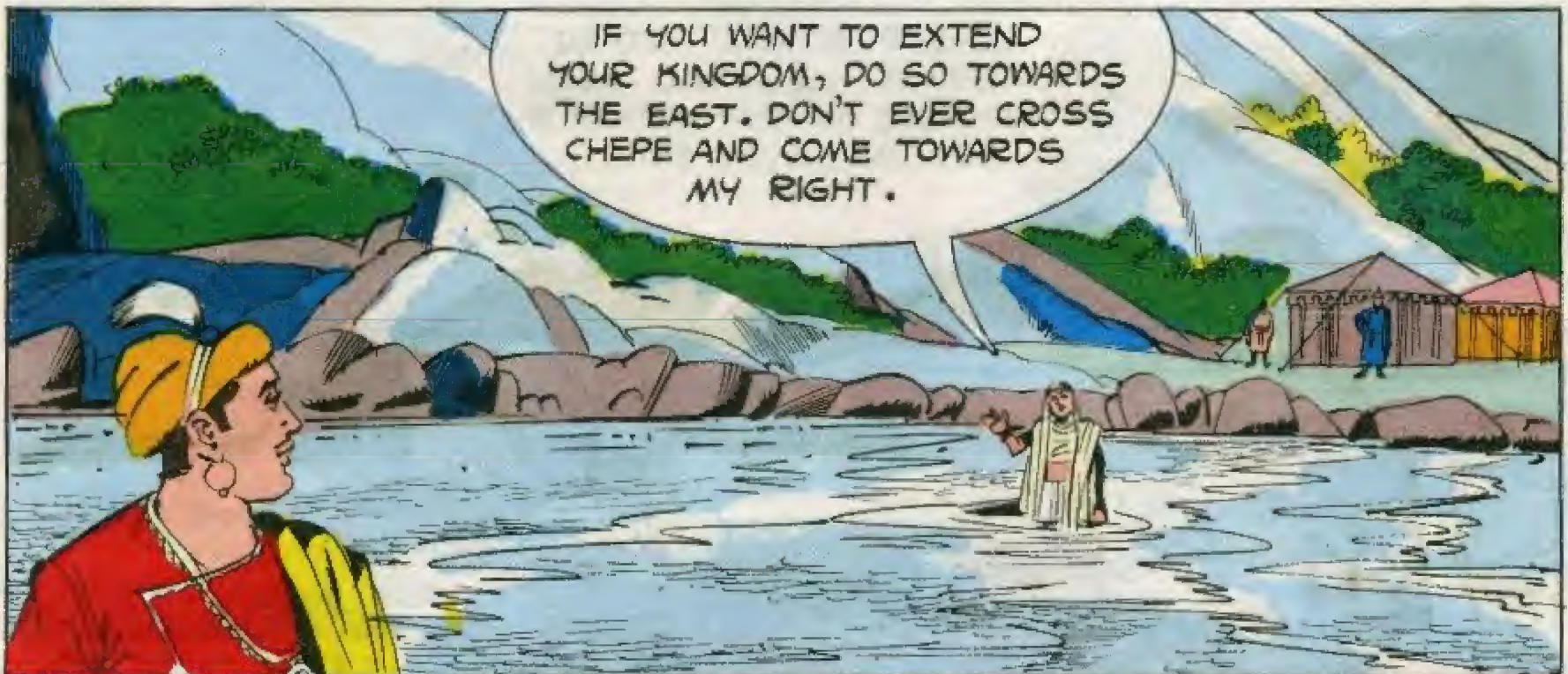
DRAVYASHAH FELL AT HIS MOTHER'S FEET...



...AND WALKED TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIVER.



IF YOU WANT TO EXTEND YOUR KINGDOM, DO SO TOWARDS THE EAST. DON'T EVER CROSS CHEPE AND COME TOWARDS MY RIGHT.

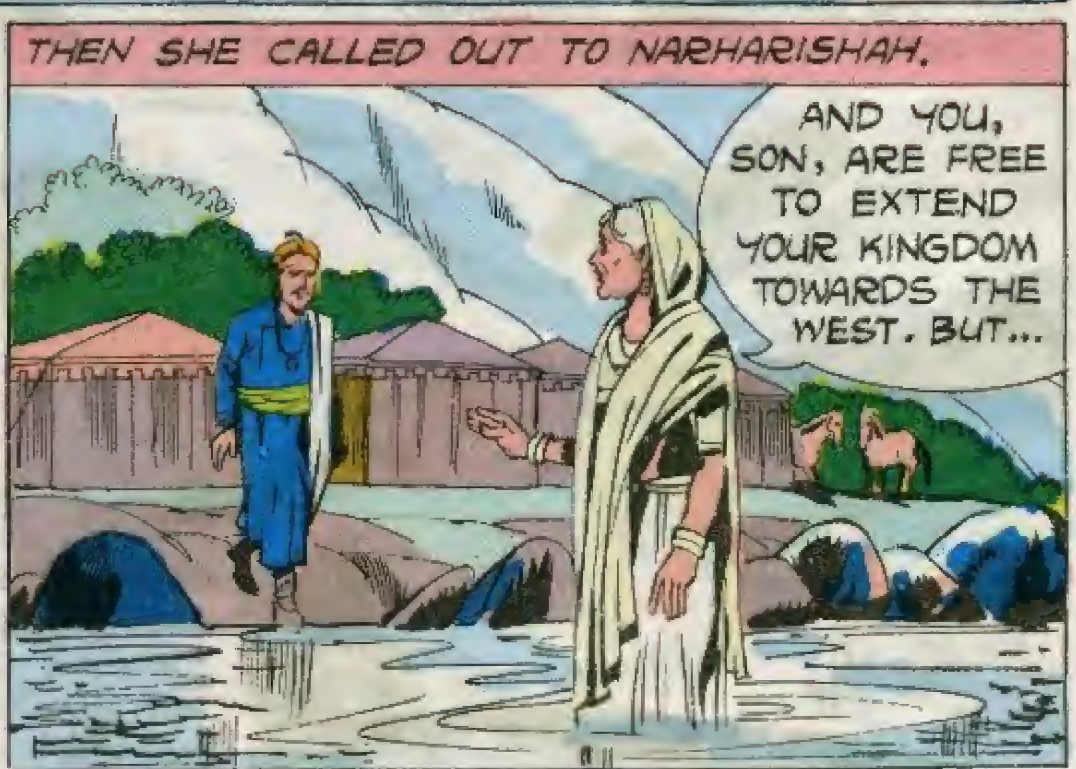


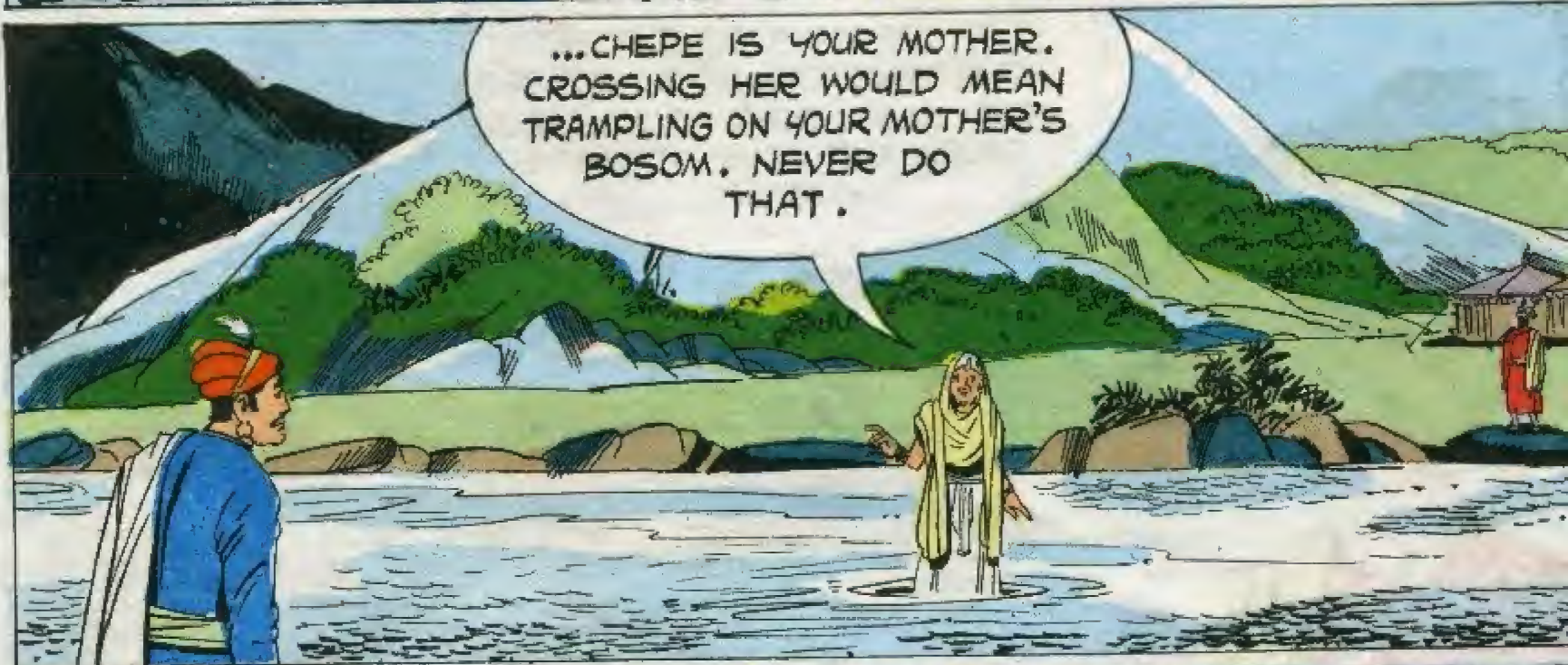
MAY GOD BE WITH YOU, MY SON!



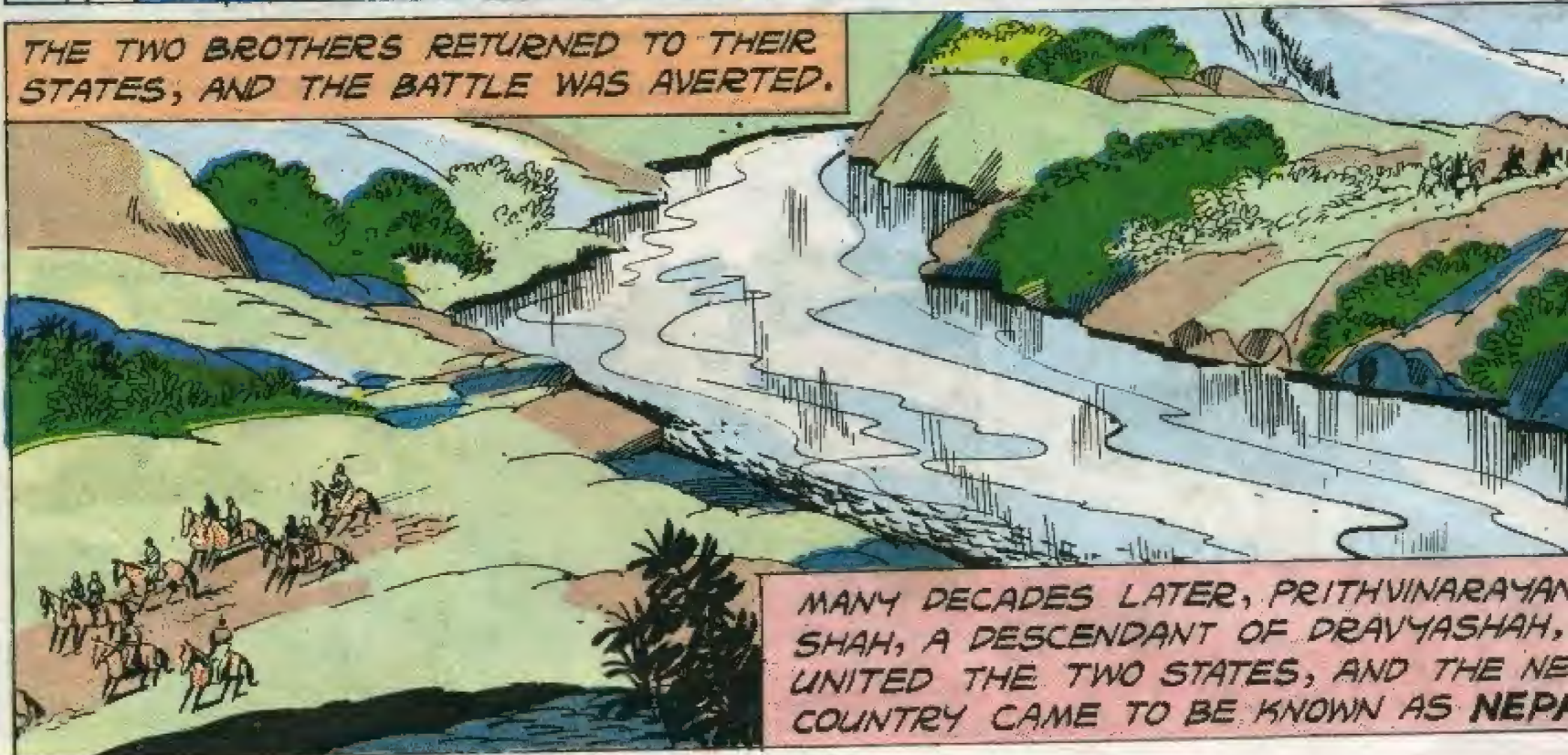
THEN SHE CALLED OUT TO NARHARISHAH,

AND YOU, SON, ARE FREE TO EXTEND YOUR KINGDOM TOWARDS THE WEST. BUT...





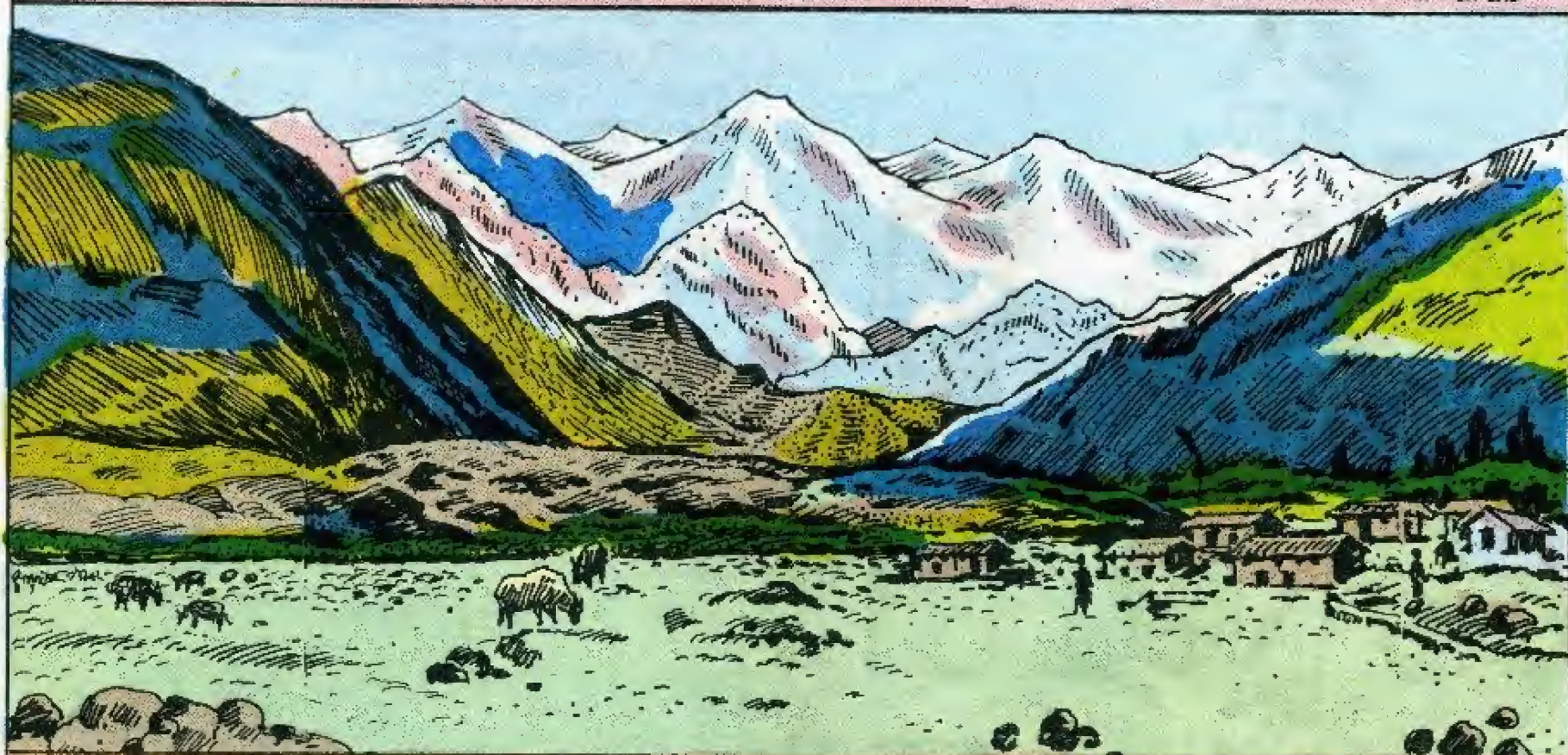
THE TWO BROTHERS RETURNED TO THEIR
STATES, AND THE BATTLE WAS AVERTED.



THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL

Script : Swarn Khandpur

Illustrations : S. K. Parab



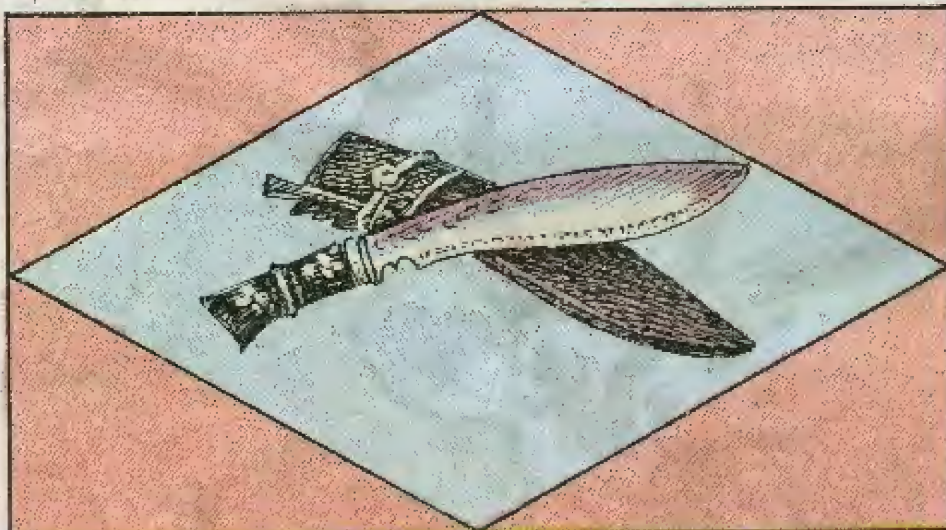
THE HIMALAYAN KINGDOM OF NEPAL HAS SOME OF THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS IN THE WORLD. THE MIGHTIEST AMONG THEM IS MOUNT EVEREST WHICH THE NEPALESE VENERATE AS THE 'TALLEST GODDESS' IN THE WORLD.



IN THE TEMPERATE FORESTS OF THESE MOUNTAINS, THE RHODODENDRON SHRUBS GROW AS TALL AS TREES—SOMETIMES 15 METRES HIGH! NO WONDER THE RHODODENDRON IS THE NATIONAL FLOWER OF NEPAL. ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF NEPAL LIE THE DENSE SWAMPY JUNGLES OF THE TERAI. THIS REGION IS RICH IN WILD LIFE.

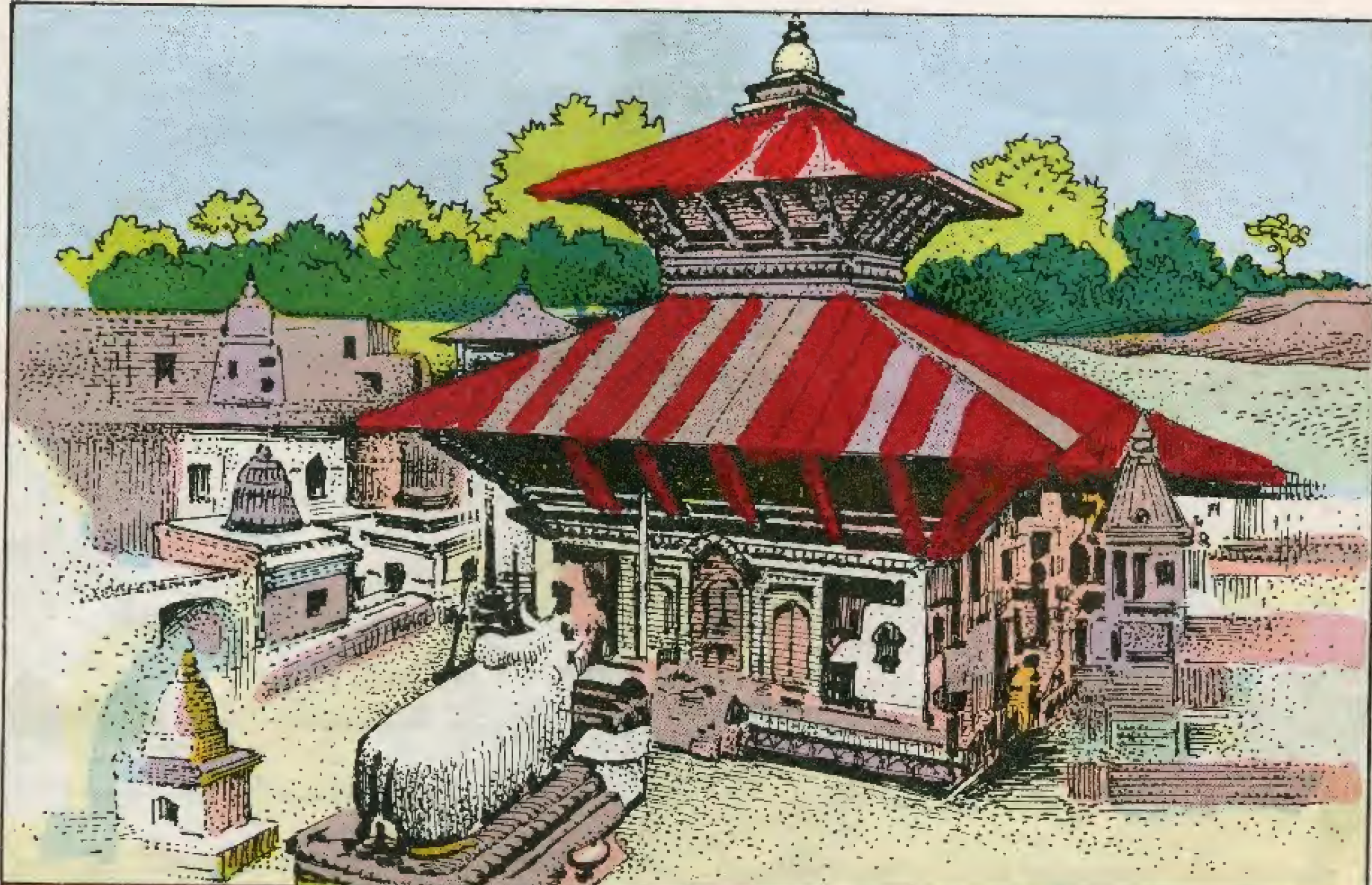


THE HARDY SHERPAS, LIKE THE GURKHAS, ARE WORLD FAMOUS AS GUIDES TO MOUNTAINEERING ENTHUSIASTS. TENZING NORGAY WHO SCALED MOUNT EVEREST WITH EDMUND HILLARY FOR THE FIRST TIME ON MAY 29, 1953 WAS A SHERPA.

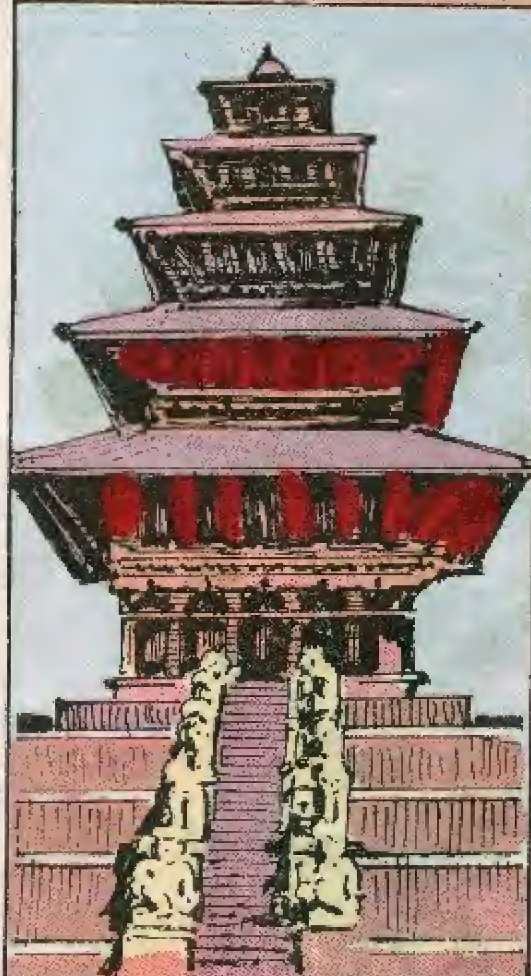


UNTIL THE 18TH CENTURY, NEPAL WAS MADE UP OF A NUMBER OF SMALL PRINCIPALITIES. IT WAS UNITED UNDER ONE RULE BY PRITHVI NARAYAN SHAH WITH HIS GURKHA SOLDIERS. THE GURKHAS DERIVE THEIR NAME FROM THE TOWN OF GORKHA IN NEPAL. BRAVE AND LOYAL, THEY ARE RESPECTED THE WORLD OVER FOR THEIR VALOUR. A GURKHA ALWAYS CARRIES THE 'KUKRI' THE TRADITIONAL NEPALESE KNIFE.

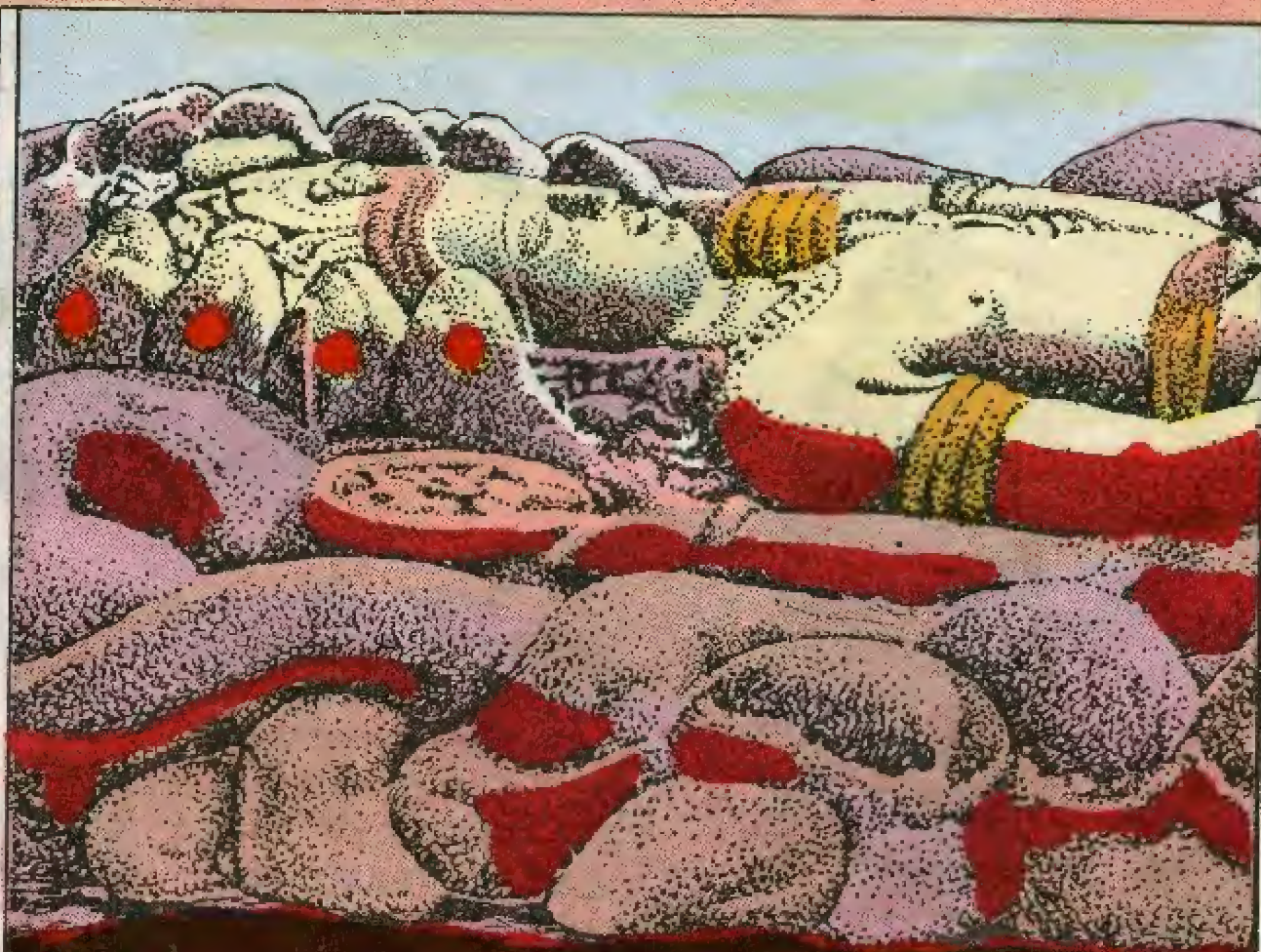




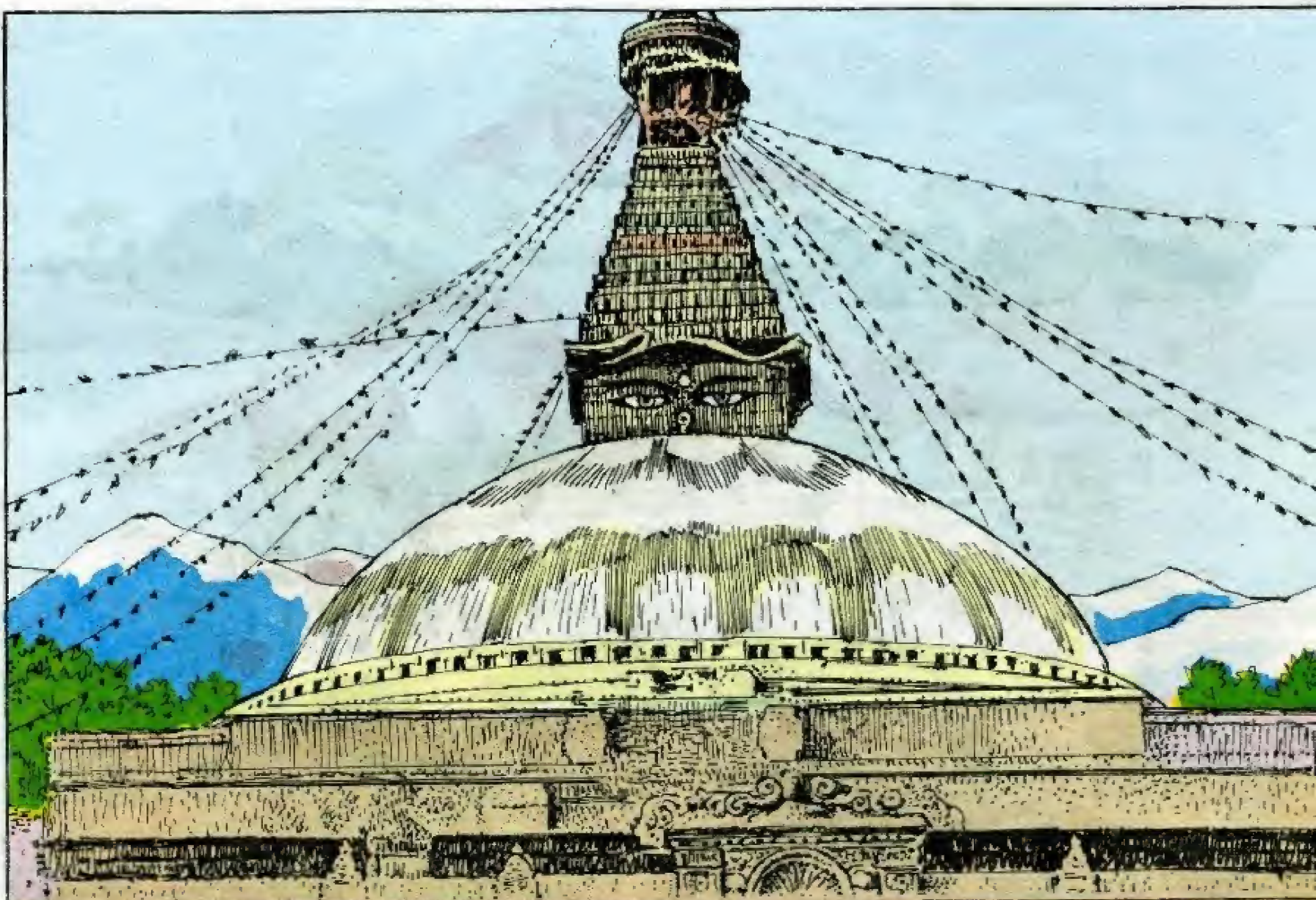
KATHMANDU IS THE CAPITAL OF NEPAL. HERE STANDS THE FAMOUS TEMPLE OF PASHUPATINATH DEDICATED TO SHIVA. ON MAHASHIVARATRI DAY, A LARGE NUMBER OF PILGRIMS VISIT THE SHRINE.



THE PAGODA STYLE OF ARCHITECTURE ORIGINATED IN NEPAL FROM THERE, IT SPREAD TO SOUTH EAST ASIA.



ANOTHER VERY SACRED PLACE FOR THE HINDUS IS NARAYANTHAN. HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF A POND LORD VISHNU RECLINES ON A MANY-HEADED SERPENT. NEPAL IS THE ONLY HINDU KINGDOM IN THE WORLD. THE KINGS ARE REGARDED AS INCARNATIONS OF LORD VISHNU.



THIS BUDDHIST SHRINE OF SWAYAMBHUNATH IS BELIEVED TO BE MORE THAN 2,000 YEARS OLD. GAUTAMA THE BUDDHA WAS BORN IN



THE SOUTHERN PART OF NEPAL, CLOSE TO THE INDIAN BORDER.

BUDDHISM, THEREFORE, IS AN IMPORTANT RELIGION OF NEPAL.

IN THIS TERRACOTTA TEMPLE OF MAHABUDDHA AT PATAN, EVERY BRICK BEARS THE IMAGE OF THE ENLIGHTENED ONE. PATAN, WHICH WAS KNOWN AS LALITPUR IN THE PAST, HAS LONG BEEN FAMOUS FOR ITS CARVINGS IN STONE AND METAL.

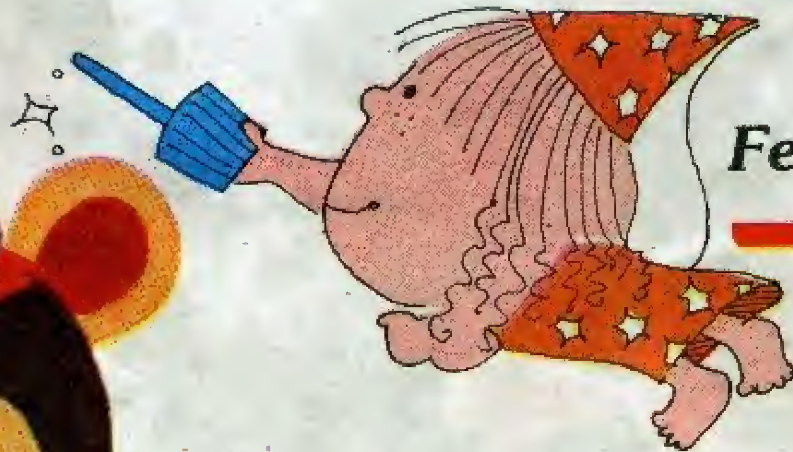




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for the fun of it,
for the taste of it!**

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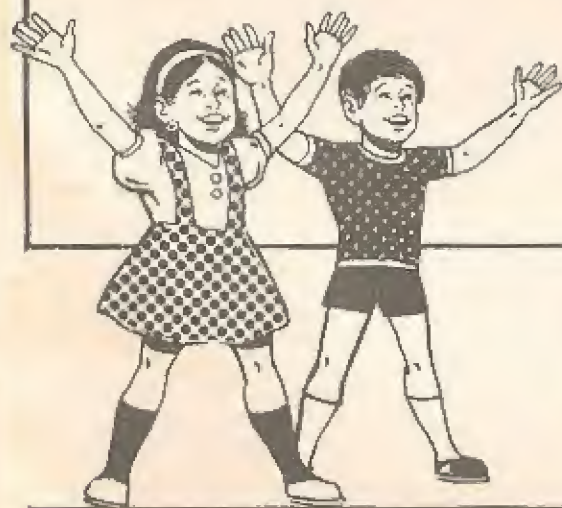
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the celestial tree to
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